

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 MCT-01

TRSE-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 FBO-02

IO-13 USSS-00 OMB-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 DHA-02 /109 W

-----211539Z 024737 /45

R 211417Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1685

PLEASE PASS DEPT OF LABOR AND SUBSTANCE TO AALC, NY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, ET

SUBJ: LABOR "EXPOSURES" CONTINUE

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 1465, B. ADDIS ABABA 1443, C. ADDIS ABABA 1212

SUMMARY: ONGOING CAMPAIGN TO "EXPOSE" AND CRUSH ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AMONG WORKERS PROCEEDING AT STEADY PACE. MAR 19 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED ETHIOPIAN ROAD AUTHORITY (ERA) WORKERS CONDEMNED NOW FAMILIAR ENEMIES OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTUION, INCLUDING CIA, AND THEIR FORMER REACTIONARY OFFICIALS WHO HAMPERED THEIR EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE AND FORM DISCUSSION GROUPS. MAR 20 HERALD REPORTED ADDIS TANNERY WORKERS EXPOSED 7 EMPLOYEES AND WARNED "REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES" WOULD BE TAKEN IN FUTURE IF THEY FOUND ENGAGED IN FURTHER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. HERALD REVOLUTIONARY FORM COLUMN SAME DAY TITLED "WHEN LABOR LEADERS EXPOSED THEMSELVES", CONDEMNED COMMERCIAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA WORKERS FOR EPRP ASSOCIATIONS AND NON-PARTICIPATION IN REVOLUTIONARY

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STRUGGLE. EVENING MAR 20, FIRE-BOMB APPARENTLY THROWN FROM PASSING CAR INTO COTTON STORAGE AREA OF DIABAKO COTTON FACTORY. FIRE RESULTED IN ONLY MINOR DAMAGE BUT ENSUING GUN BATTLE MAY HAVE LED TO DEATHS OF AS MANY AS FIVE PERSONS. END SUMMARY.

1. MAR 19 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED ERA WORKERS

HELD THREE-DAY CONFERENCE AT FORMER PARLIAMENT BUILDING DURING WHICH THEY PLEDGED ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR AND FULL PARTICIPATION IN STRUGGLE TO CRUSH TRINITY OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTUION'S ENEMIES -- FEUDALISM, IMPERIALISM, AND BUREAUCRATIC CAPITALISM. DURING SEMINAR ATTENDED BY 97 ERA WORKERS, PROVISION OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA) MEMBERS EXPLAINED PROGRESS OF REVOLUTION. WORKERS STATED INTERNAL BUREAUCRATS HAD DISCOURAGED HOLDING OF DISCUSSION FORUM PAST 11 MONTHS AND THUS HAD PROMOTED INTERESTS OF EPRP, EDU, ELF AND CIA. STRONG CRITICISM EXPRESSED TOWARD ERA BUREAUCRACY FOR USING OVERT AND COVERT MEANS TO PREVENT RAISING LEVEL OF WORKERS' POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS. WORKERS RESOLVED THAT EMPLOYEES WITHIN ERA WHO UNWILLING TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH CAUSE OF OPPRESSED MASSES WOULD BE CRUSHED BY PROLETARIATS' UNITED FORCE.

2. MAR 20 HERALD REPORTED "PROGRESSIVE" ADDIS TANNERY WORKERS EXPOSED 7 EMPLOYEES SUSPECTED OF DISTRIBUTING SUBVERSIVE LEAFLETS AND OF SCRIBBLING COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS ON WALLS. AFTER STERN WARNING THAT REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THEM IN FUTURE IF THEY FOUND ENGAGED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, ALL 7 SET FREE. INDIVIDUALS REPORTED AS REALIZING THEY HAD BEEN MISGUIDED AND HAVE NOW JOINED REVOLUTIONARY CAMP.

3. IN TRANSLATION FROM PREVIOUS DAY'S AMHARIC PAPER, MAR 20 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REVOLUTIONARY FORUM COLUMN CONFIDENTIAL

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CONDEMNED COMMERCIAL BANK OF ETHIOPIA EMPLOYEES. LENGTHY COLUMN DESCRIBED CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION WORKERS AND EPRP, FORMER CONFEDERATION OF ETHIOPIAN LABOR UNIONS (CELU) MEMBERS, AND MISGUIDED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES. IN CONDEMING DISBANDED CELU AND EPRP, COLUMN ALLUDED TO CIA AND CONFORMED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ONLY ONE OF 9 COMPONENTS OF ALL ETHIOPIA TRADE UNION (AETU) WHICH HAS REFUSED TO JOIN EATU. IN CONCLUSION, ARTICLE STATED COMMERCIAL BANK WORKERS HAVE REDUCED THEMSELVES TO MOUTHPIECE OF EPRP PROPAGANDA AND URGED THEM TO BE MORE RESOLUTE AND TO CLEAR THEIR STAND.

4. IN POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT OGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOME WORKERS, FIRE BOMB APPARENTLY THROWN FROM PASSING CAR INTO COTTON STORAGE AREA OF ADDIS ABABA DIABAKO COTTON FACTORY, EVENING MAR 20. ALTHOUGH FIRE RESULTED IN ONLY MINOR DAMAGE, ENSUING GUN BATTLE MAY HAVE LED TO AS MANY AS 5 DEATHS. DURING

GUN BATTLE, AT LEAST TWO STRAY BULLETS STRUCK EMBOFF'S
RESIDENCE, CAUSING ONLY MINOR DAMAGE.

5. COMMENT: CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANTI-GOVT FACTIONS
WITHIN VARIOUS LABOR AREAS PART OF OVERALL EFFORT TO
ERADICATE OPPOSITION AMONG URBAN "ELITES". ALMOST DAILY
EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES FOCUSING ON DIFFERENT LABOR
CADRES HAVING STRONG PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT. FIRE
BOMBING OF COTTON FACTORY COULD BE START OF ECONOMIC
SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN IN RETALIATION FOR EPMG "EXPOSURE"
CAMPAIGN AMONG WORKERS.
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AALC NY.

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